

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/867,688

Applicant(s)

NISHIYA ET AL.

Examiner

Kirsten C Jolley

Art Unit

1762

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE and Amendment filed 9/26/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-5,9-16,20 and 21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 31 May 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
  - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)          |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.            |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____.              | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                  |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
|  | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |

Art Unit: 1762

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Green on October 15, 2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 20, line 13, the phrase "step of" has been deleted.

In claim 20, line 13, --from the supply of developing solution to-- has been added after the second occurrence of "time" and before "50%".

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record because neither Subramanian et al. or JP '429 teach or suggest the claimed method in combination with a step of measuring the thickness of the developing solution layer and changing one of the rotation time, rotation speed, or rotation acceleration of a stirring step based on the thickness measurement.

Independent claim 20 is allowable over the prior art of JP '429 and Subramanian et al. because neither JP '429 nor Subramanian et al. teach or suggest the claimed method including the step of stopping the substrate for the second predetermined period of time prior to stirring, whereby the second predetermined period of time is a period of time from the supply of

Art Unit: 1762

developing solution to 50% to 80% of progress of the developing chemical reaction. There is support for this limitation on page 4, lines 24-26 of the specification. Because JP '429 and Subramanian et al. both only comprise stopping the substrate for an instant while reversing spin directions during the second predetermined time period (prior to stirring and developing in a stationary condition), the references do not teach or suggest developing the substrate in a stationary condition until 50-80% of developing chemical reaction occurs during the second predetermined time period.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kirsten C Jolley whose telephone number is 703-306-5461 before December 10, 2003, and will be 571-272-1421 after December 10, 2003. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shrive P Beck can be reached on 703-308-2333 before December 10, 2003, or 571-272-1415 after December 10, 2003. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1193.

kcj



**MICHAEL BARR**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**